BLACKOUT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

4

DELCOURT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

4

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

Summary of the previous volumes :

Narumi Kato is suffering from a rare disease that can kill him, if he can't make people around him laugh.Masaru Saiga is threatened with death because of his huge inheritance from his father. And Shirogane, a mysterious girl who handles a giant puppet by the name of Arlequin, lives only to protect Masaru. These three characters are the important protagonists of karakuri circus. In order to save Masaru's life, who has just been kidnapped before their eyes, Narumi and Shirogane get into the second home of Zenji Saiga, the sleeping partner of the kidnapping, who is also Masaru's uncle. Unfortunately, our two friends end up captured. Then, Masaru makes the decision to fight alone against the criminals, as he intends to do everything he can to find his two friends. He succeeds in obtaining Ashihana's collaboration, who is the assassins' clan leader. He will even fight against professional puppet masters, using as well can be expected... Arlequin! A bomb had been set up in the basement of the residence of Masaru's uncle, and all the protagonistsof the story have found themselves cornered in the middle of the flames. While he's going away with his uncle, Masaru is protected at the last second by Narumi. But, when the smoke begins to clear, Masaru finds out that the arm which protected him from a certain death is all that remains of his friend...The rest of his body has been entirely torn to pieces by the explosion's strength...

KARAKURI CIRCUS TOME 4

INTERVAL : "A LETTER FROM MASARU"

INTERVAL : "MASARU GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

INTERVAL : "SHIROGANE GOES TO HIGH SCHOOL"

ACT II

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 01 : "A NEW ACT BEGINS"

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 02 : "A SCHOOL IN THE NIGHT"

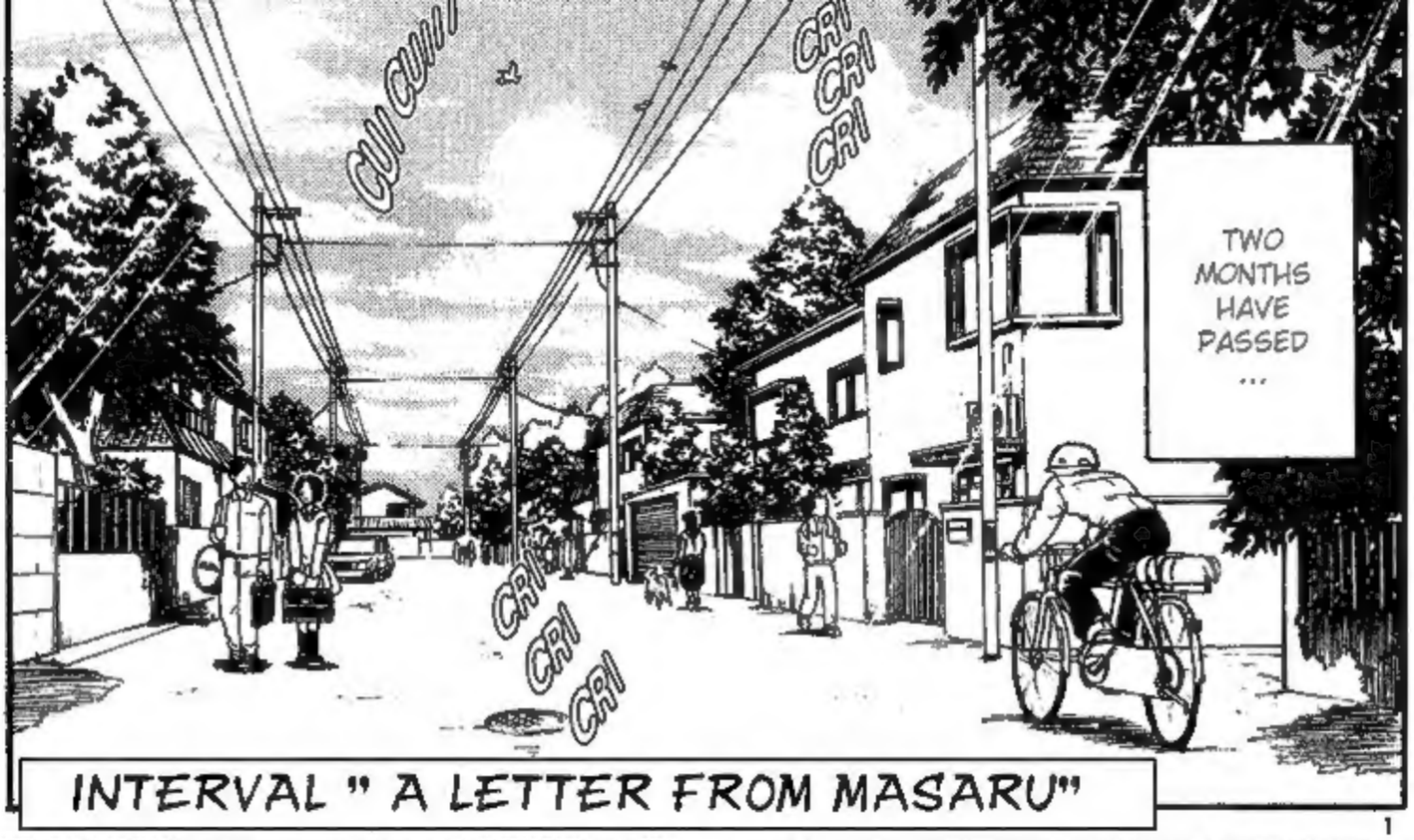
CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 03 : "THE NAKAMACHI MEET SHIROGANE"

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 04 : "THE NAKAMACHI MEET MASARU"

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 05 : "A THREE WHEELED VAN"

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 06 : "BURNING ARROWS"

CIRCUS - THE START - CHAPTER 07 : "THE FINISH POINT"



INTERVAL " A LETTER FROM MASARU"

... SINCE THE END OF MY STORY ABOUT MY KIDNAPPING LINKED WITH THE FORTUNE INHERITED FROM MY FATHER ...
NARUMI AND SHIROGANE ARE GOOD AND GENEROUS!
MASARU! NOOOO!
THEN I'LL PUNISH YOU, AND YOU'LL BECOME MY SON!

INTERVAL

"A LETTER FROM MASARU"

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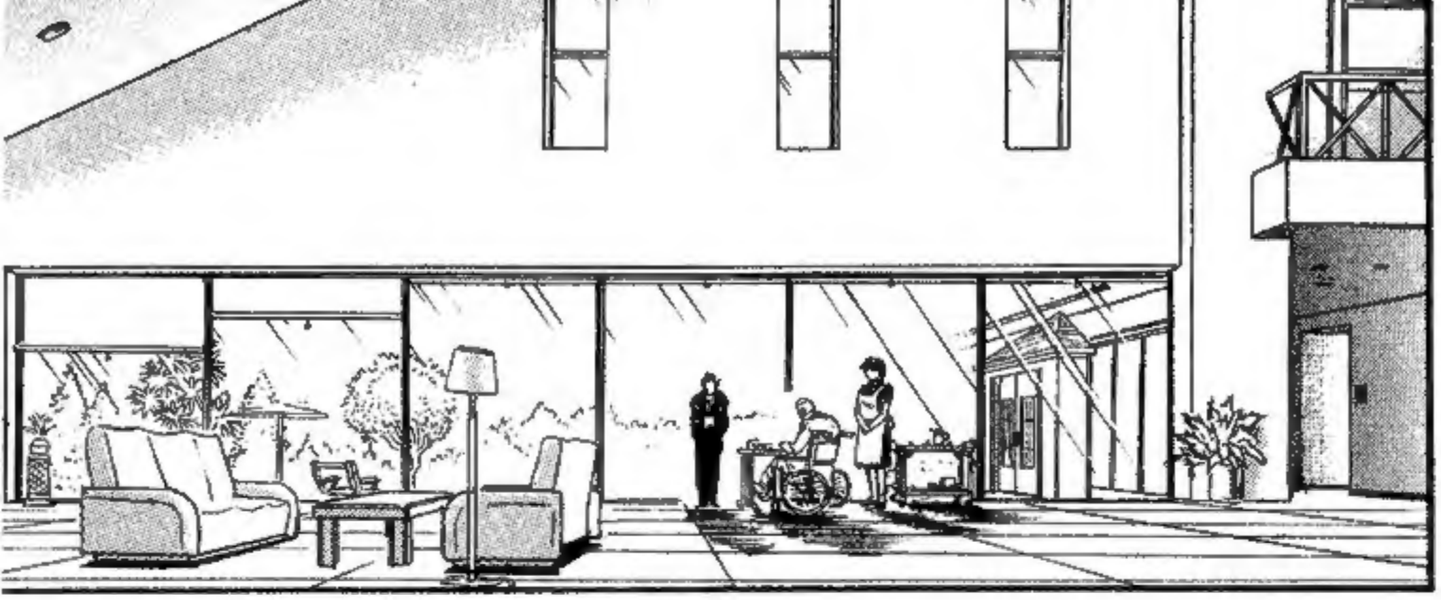
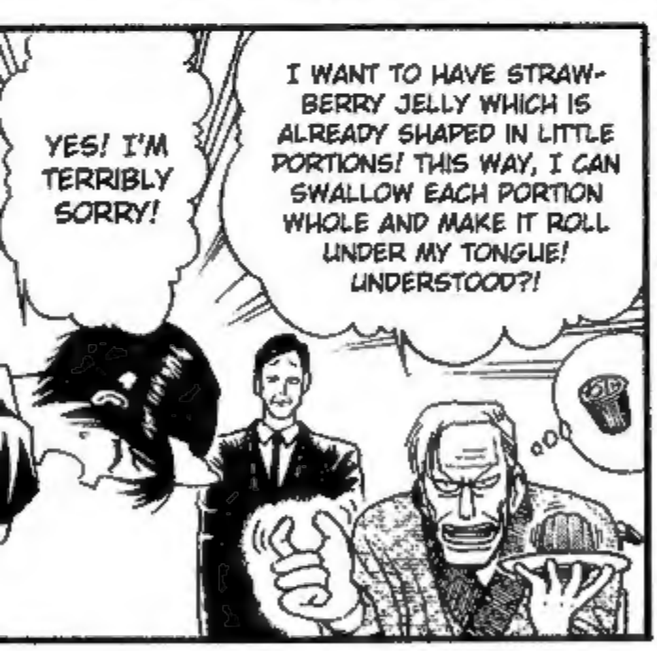
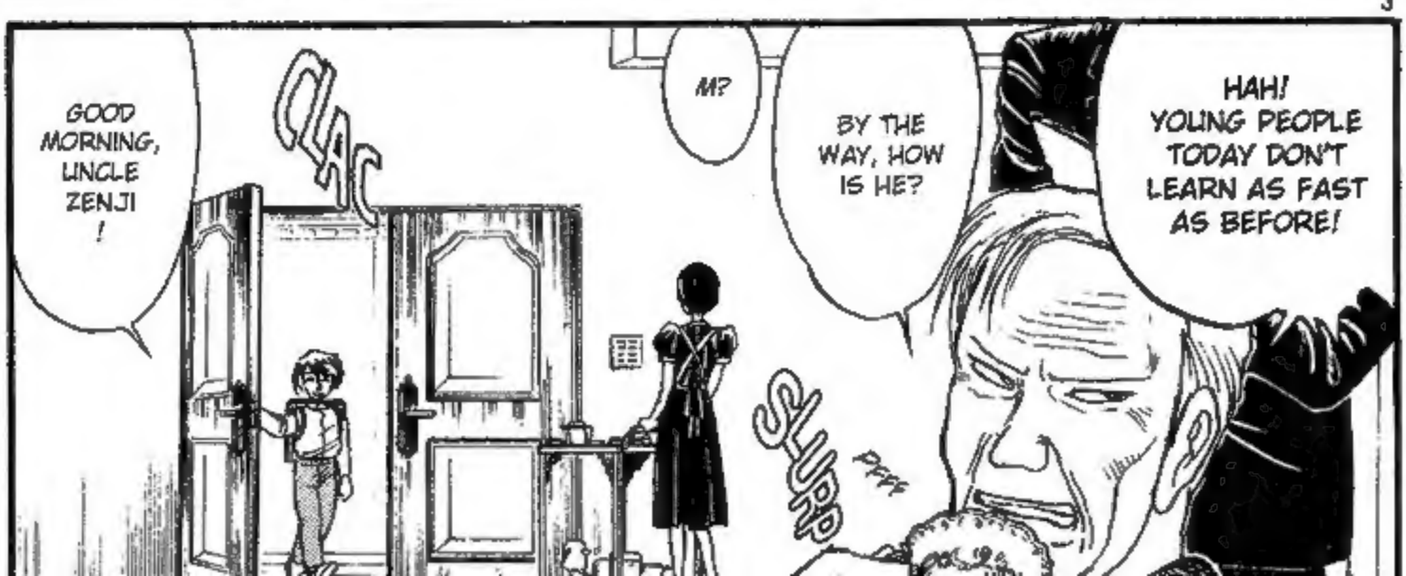
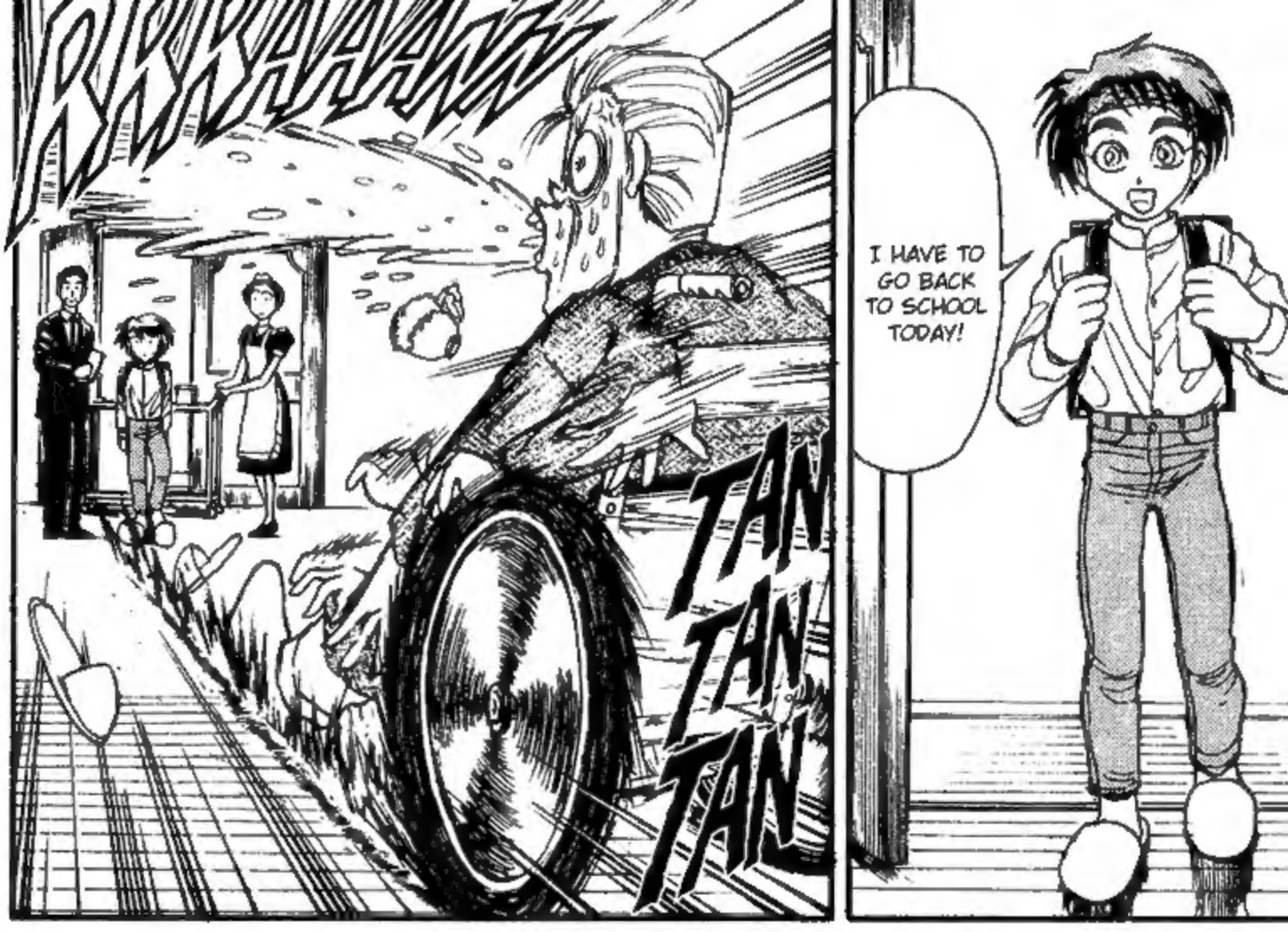


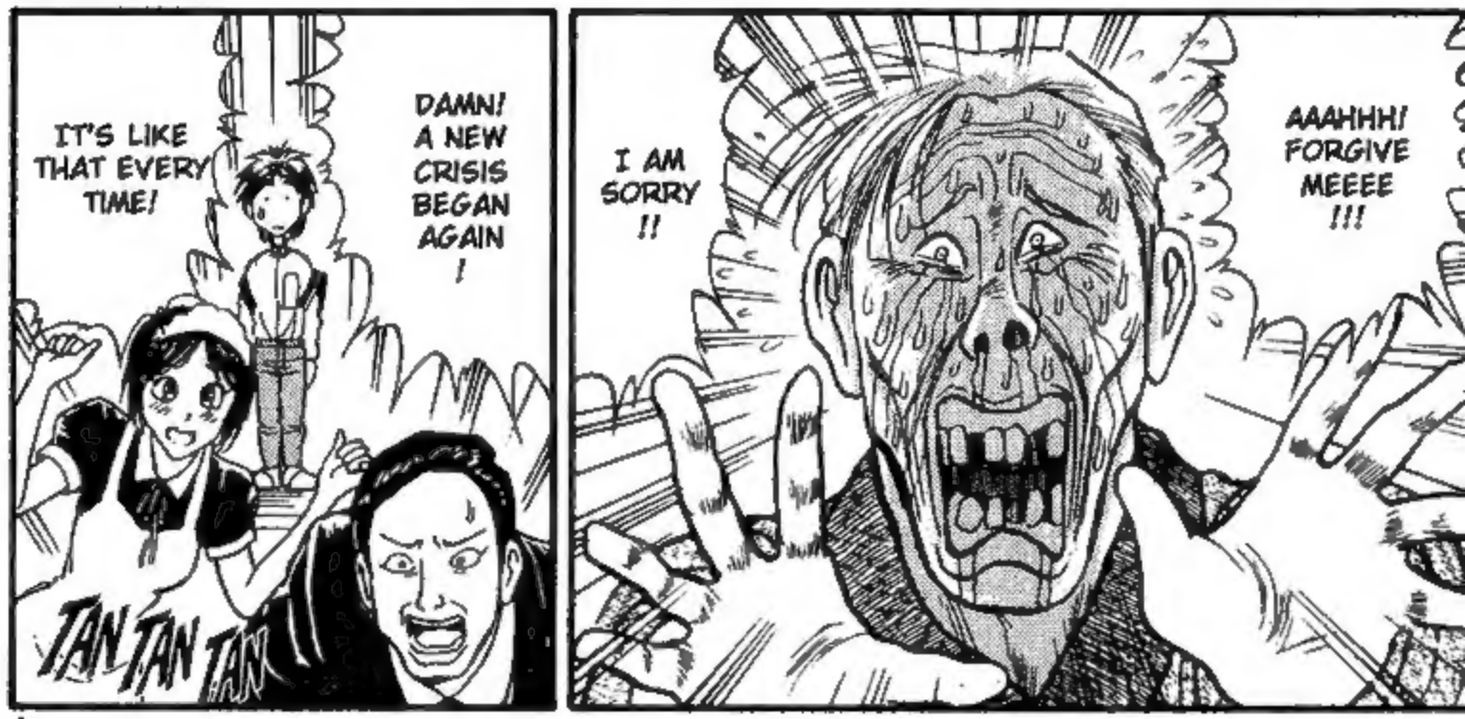
HOW MANY TIMES WILL I HAVE TO REPEAT THIS
YES, MISTER SAIGA ?
HEY, YOU!


YES! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!
I WANT TO HAVE STRAW-BERRY JELLY WHICH IS ALREADY SHAPED IN LITTLE PORTIONS! THIS WAY, I CAN SWALLOW EACH PORTION WHOLE AND MAKE IT ROLL UNDER MY TONGUE! UNDERSTOOD?!

...
YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE REGISTER'S OFFICE FOR 2 PM. YOU HAVE SEVERAL CONTRACTS TO FINALIZE...
MISTER PRESIDENT, TODAY...
CLINK
CLINK


GOOD MORNING, UNCLE ZENJI !
CLIC
M?
BY THE WAY, HOW IS HE?
HAH! YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY DON'T LEARN AS FAST AS BEFORE!
SLURP
PFFF


I HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY!
TAN TAN TAN


IT'S LIKE THAT EVERY TIME!
DAMN! A NEW CRISIS BEGAN AGAIN !
TAN TAN TAN
I AM SORRY !!
AAAHHH! FORGIVE MEEEE !!!

SINCE I SAVED HIM FROM THE FIRE, EVERY TIME HE SEES ME, HE HAS SOMETHING LIKE A PANIC ATTACK ...
LISTEN TO THE DRUM, PRESIDENT! ONLY THE DRUM!
SIR! YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED YOUR GOOD STRAWBERRY JELLY!
MY UNCLE ZENJI KIDNAPPED ME AND LOCKED ME UP IN HIS SECOND HOME, AT KARUIZAWA. HE WANTED TO STEAL FROM ME ALL THE MONEY I INHERITED FROM MY FATHER...

HAVE A NICE DAY!
CLAC
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ...
DO SOMETHING! HELP MEEEE!
HE'S CONVINCED THAT HE ALMOST DIED IN THE FIRE IN AIZAWA BECAUSE HE DID WRONG BY TRYING TO TAKE ALL MY MONEY BY FORCE

THAT'S SO TRUE ...
HUH... YES, PRESIDENT
YOU KNOW, JELLY IS FAR BETTER, WHEN PREPARED IN SMALL PORTIONS ...
OU...
BE CAREFUL, HE HEARD US!
MISTER MASARU MUST BE QUITE EMBARRASSED, WITH SUCH AN ADOPTIVE FATHER IN HIS CARE!
GHHT

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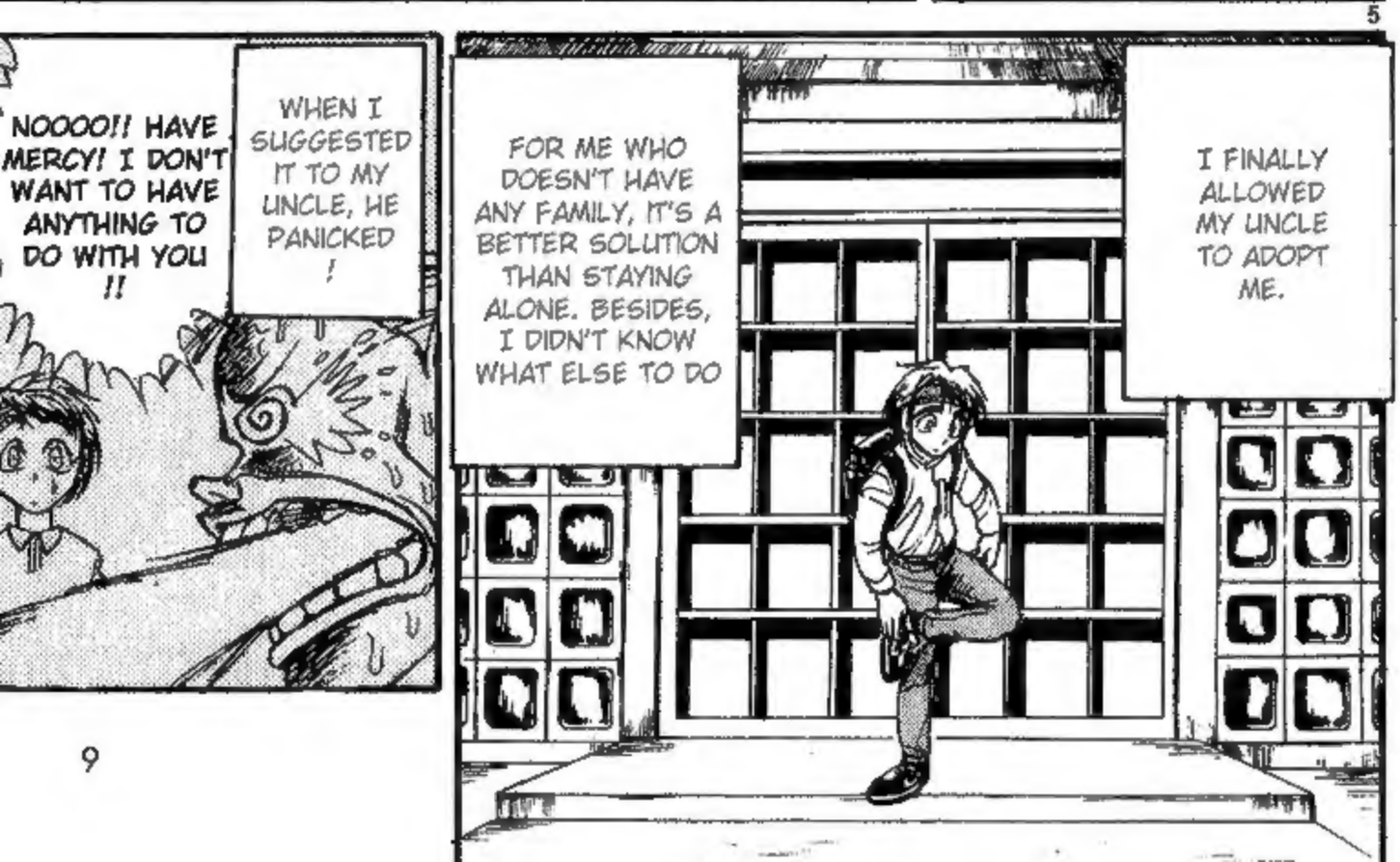
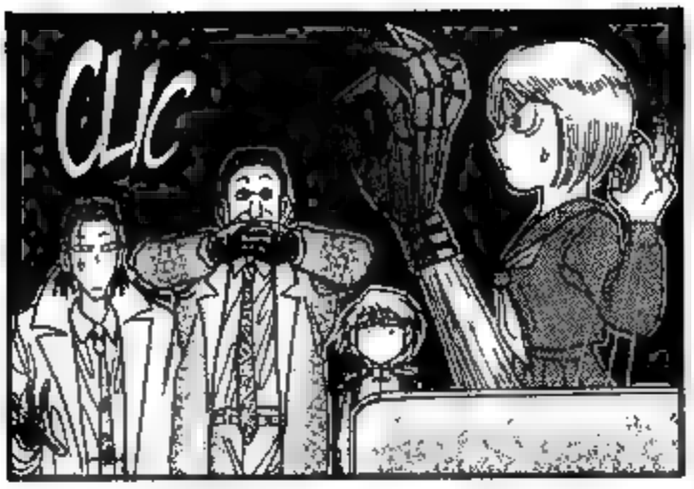

NOOOO!! HAVE MERCY! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU !!
WHEN I SUGGESTED IT TO MY UNCLE, HE PANICKED !
FOR ME WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY FAMILY, IT'S A BETTER SOLUTION THAN STAYING ALONE. BESIDES, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO
I FINALLY ALLOWED MY UNCLE TO ADOPT ME.

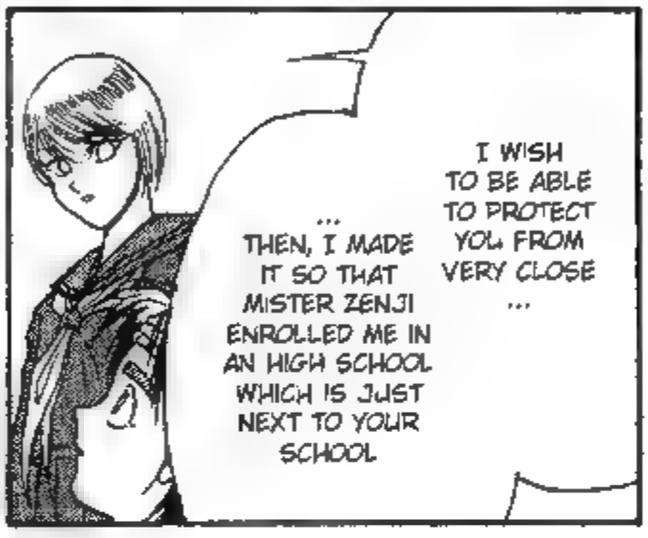
MY "BODYGUARDS" PROTECTED AND WATCHED OVER ME, UNTIL THEY WERE SURE THAT MY UNCLE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST ME ...
ANYWAY, I'M NOT WORRIED !
AH!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT ... WELL, I HOPE
MY SECOND BODYGUARD IS MISTER HAZAWA, THE "RIGHT HAND" OF MISTER ASHIHANA IN THEIR JOB ...
BOSS, YOU KNOW WELL THAT THERE'S ALMOST NO PUPPETS LEFT TO HANDLE !
MY FIRST BODY-GUARD IS MISTER ASHIHANA, A GREAT PUPPET MASTER WHO BECAME A HITMAN. I HIRED HIM AT KARUIZAWA FOR A BILLION YEN
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR LIFE, BOY ... LEAVE THIS SCHOOL AND BECOME A GREAT PUPPET MASTER!
6
STILL AS TRAUMATIZED AS BEFORE. HE HASN'T THE WILL NOR THE ABILITIES TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST MASARU
WHAT'S THE NEWS ABOUT ZENJI ?
SOMEONE ELSE WATCHES OVER ME... A YOUNG MYSTERIOUS GIRL WHO'S 18 YEARS OLD AND CALLED ...
HEH, GOOD MORNING !

MY RESPECTS, YOUNG MASTER
ISN'T IT A LITTLE WEIRD TO SEE A FRENCH GIRL WITH WHITE HAIR DRESSED LIKE THAT?
IS IT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM?
OH NO NOT AT ALL! IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL!
HMM!
REALLY ?!


CLIC

STOP IT! YOU WANT TO MAKE HER MAD ?
BOSS, WHY AREN'T YOU CHARMING HER WITH YOUR GOOD OLD TECHNIQUE ?
IT'S TRUE THAT SHE'S SUPER HOT, THIS LITTLE DOLL...

SIR, BELIEVE ME, YOU STILL HAVE ENEMIES !
NO WAY !
YOU KNOW, SHIROGANE, YOU'RE NOT OBLIGED TO TAKE CARE OF ME LIKE THAT ANYMORE ...


... THEN, I MADE IT SO THAT MISTER ZENJI ENROLLED ME IN AN HIGH SCHOOL WHICH IS JUST NEXT TO YOUR SCHOOL
I WISH TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU FROM VERY CLOSE ...

TALKING ABOUT MONEY, I CAN'T HELP LAUGHING, WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE FACE OF THE CLERKS AT THE BANK ...

... ARE YOU SURE?
... WOULD PAY VERY MUCH TO GET YOUR SKIN!
SHE'S RIGHT! MY OLD CLIENTS, THAT MEANS YOUR FATHER'S OTHER CHILDREN...

8

OUAAHHH
UN MILLIARD DE YENS ??
NOON !!!
CAISSE

COMPTE COURANT • ÉPARGNE
MONTANT DU RETRAIT

YES! OK!
IF YOU CONTINUE TO HUMILIATE THE LITTLE MASTER ...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WENT INTO A BANK
WANTING TO WITHDRAW A BILLION YEN AT A SIMPLE COUNTER!!
I DON'T HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THESE TWO MEN, BUT I KNOW THAT WELL!
I TOO, HAVE THE RIGHT TO JOKE, DO I NOT?
SHIROGANE! MISTER ASHIHANA WASN'T MOCKING ME!
YOU GOT ME WELL! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED SECOND GRADE HUMOR!
AAH HA HA HAAAA !

... AS I TRACKED YOU DOWN IMPLACABLY WITH THE ONLY GOAL OF KILLING YOU !
BY THE WAY, IF I NEVER SEEN YOU LAUGH, IT'S A LITTLE NORMAL ...
I SEE THAT YOU'RE A LOT MORE JOYFUL THAN BEFORE!
OK ...

YOU LEAVE FOR GOOD, MISTER ASHIHANA ?
CLAC
NOW ...
IT WAS THE JOB, BUT ... I'M STILL SORRY
FORGET ALL THAT, WILL YOU ?

YOU KNOW, MISTER ASHIHANA ...

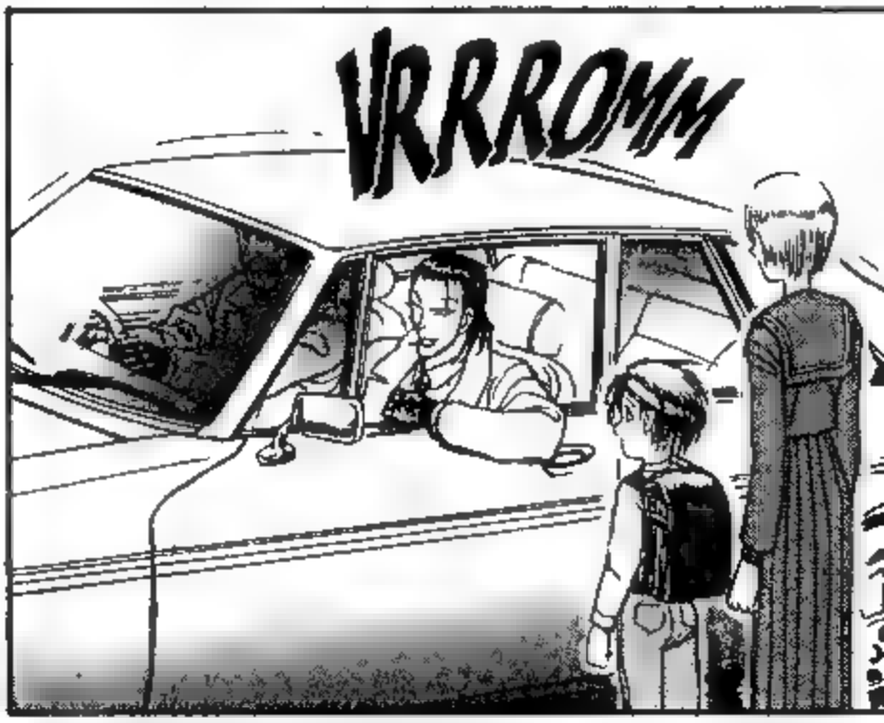
I'LL ALSO FINISH EVERYTHING YOU ASKED ME, BEFORE LEAVING DEFINITELY
DON'T WORRY ...

AND ME, I FOLLOWED THROUGH THE END OF THE CONTRACT THAT WE MADE TOGETHER. I BROUGHT YOU BACK ALIVE HERE.
YOU PAID ME WHAT WAS AGREED...

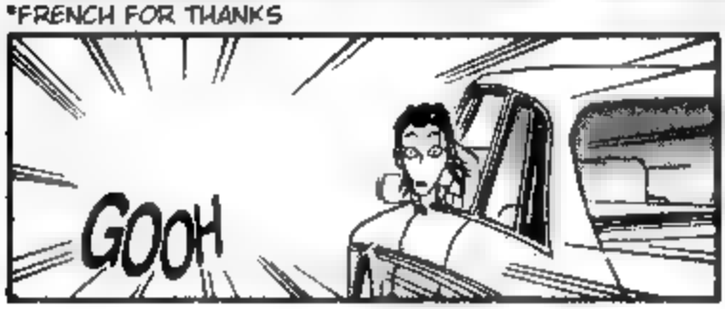
I KNOW THAT YOU WATCHED OVER ME, WHEN I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL ...
... AND ALSO WHEN I SETTLED DOWN AT MY UNCLE'S PLACE

HAH!
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING !

WELL, IT'S THE JOB!
DON'T FORGET THAT WE TRIED TO KILL YOU AT THE BEGINNING ...
YES, I KNOW ...
DON'T YOU, SHIROGANE ?



*FRENCH FOR THANKS



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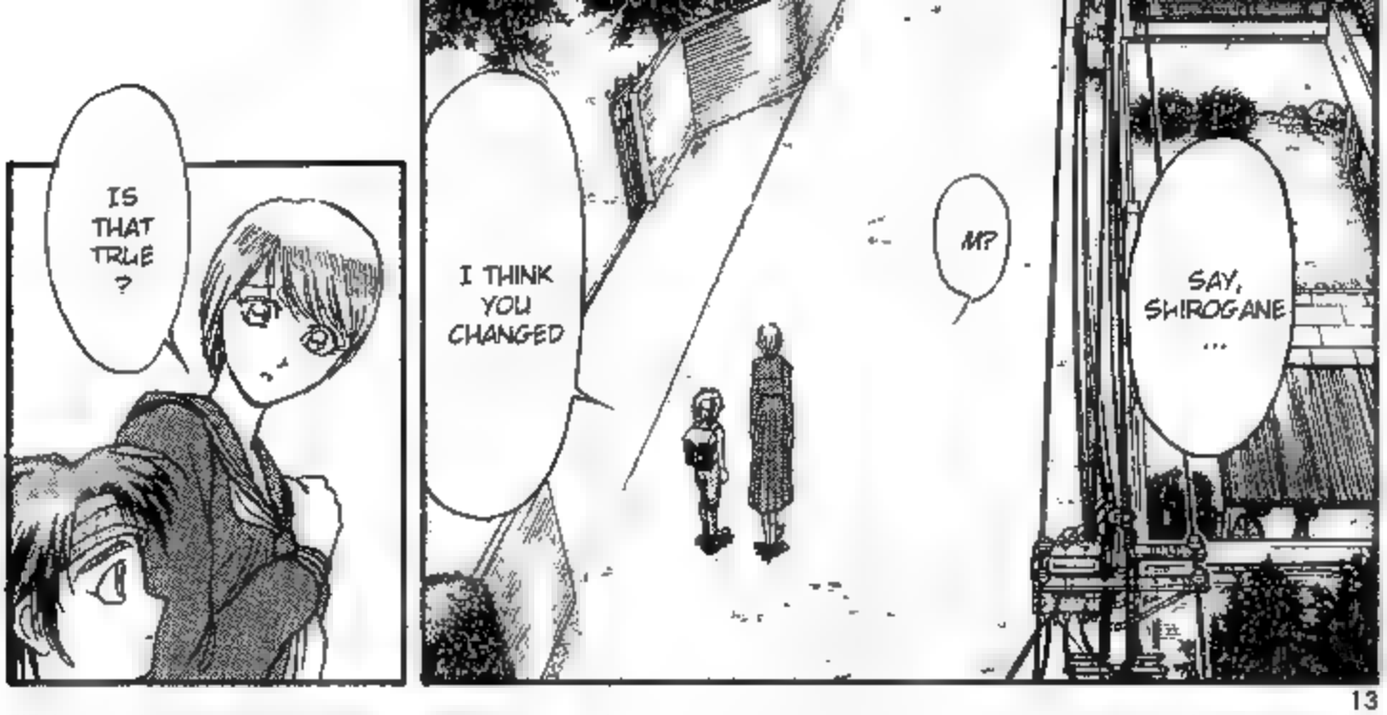
IS THAT TRUE ?
I THINK YOU CHANGED
M?
SAY, SHIROGANE ...

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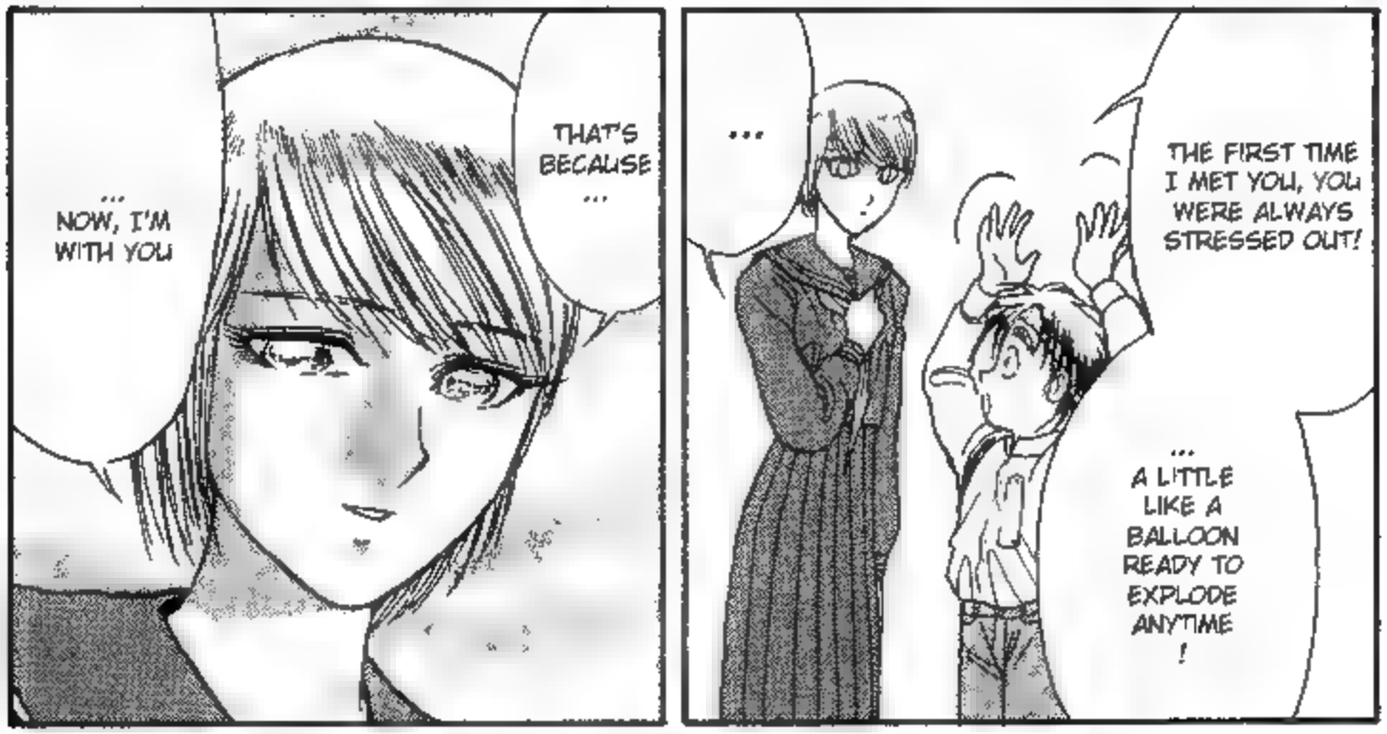
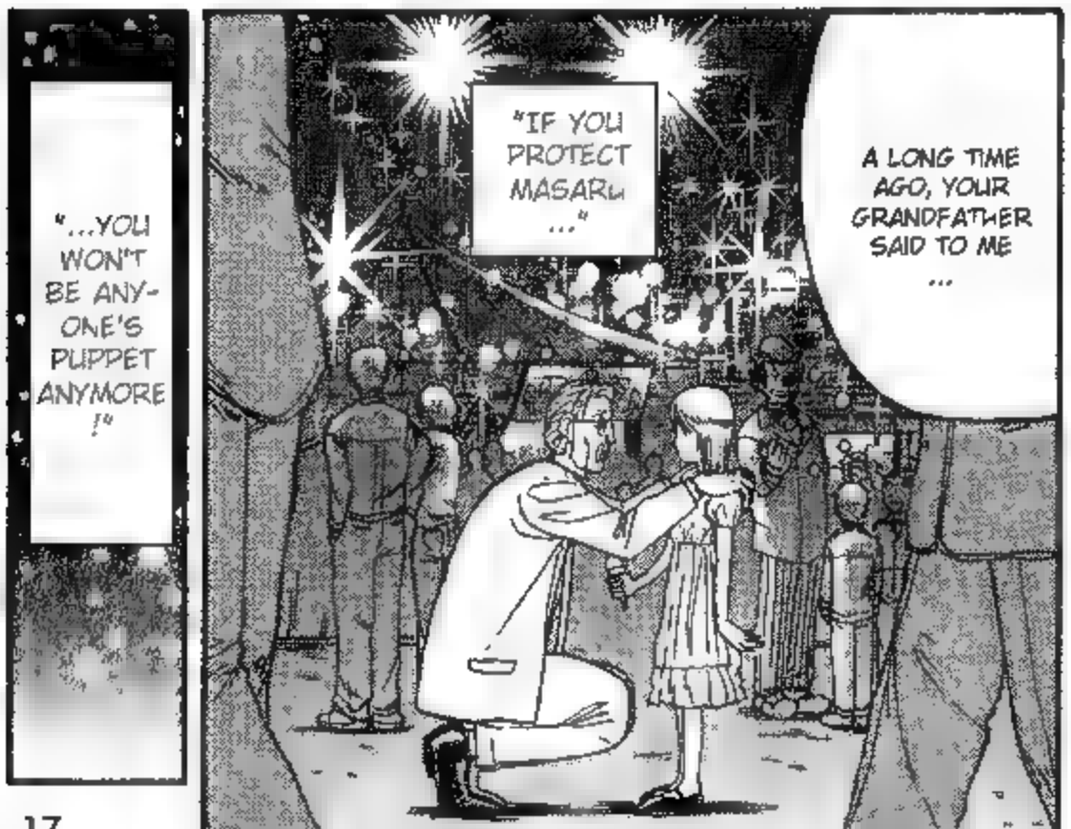
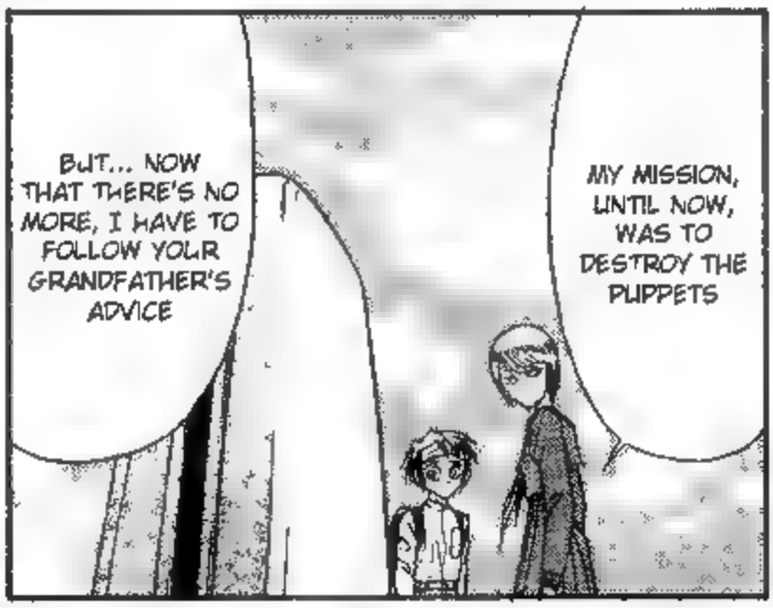

... NOW, I'M WITH YOU
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
...
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, YOU WERE ALWAYS STRESSED OUT!
... A LITTLE LIKE A BALLOON READY TO EXPLODE ANYTIME !


"...YOU WON'T BE ANY-ONE'S PUPPET ANYMORE !"
"IF YOU PROTECT MASARU ..."
A LONG TIME AGO, YOUR GRANDFATHER SAID TO ME ...

"SHIROGANE... YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE SAD PUPPET..."

I CLING TO THOSE WORDS, THE BEST I COULD ...
"... AND YOU'LL GET BACK YOUR LOST HUMANITY ..."

SIR... ALLOW ME TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOU!


BUT... NOW THAT THERE'S NO MORE, I HAVE TO FOLLOW YOUR GRANDFATHER'S ADVICE
MY MISSION, UNTIL NOW, WAS TO DESTROY THE PUPPETS

HM ...
...
THEN, I AGREE

I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT LIFE HAS IN STORE FOR US ...
IT'S THE PATH I DESIRE TO FOLLOW, AND I DO IT OF MY FREE WILL ...

...IT PLEASES ME AS WELL !
THANK YOU, SIR!

SIR ...
NOW, YOUR SMILE IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL
WHAT IS IT ?
...

I AM ...
... NOT ALONE ANYMORE
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M LIKE YOU, SHIROGANE ...

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A MEMORY TOO HEAVY ...
TOO HARD TO CARRY ALONE ...

SHIRO-GANE AND I ...
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A "CERTAIN" THING

DESPITE THAT...

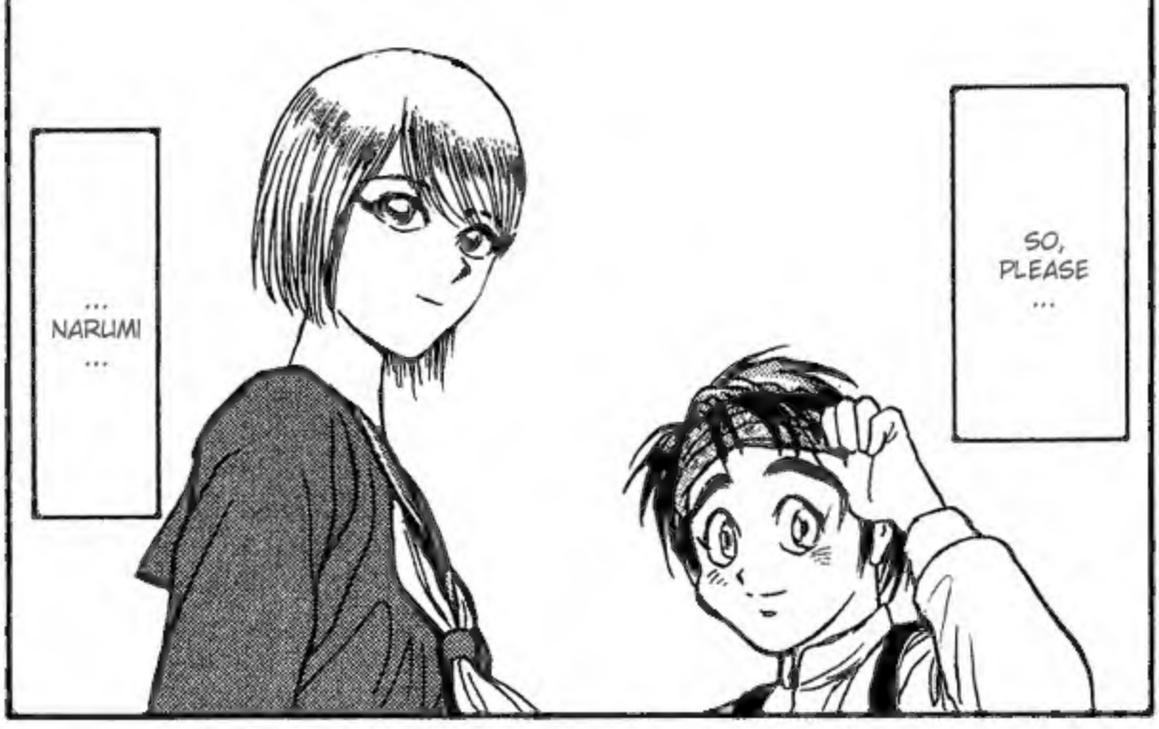
...
YOU WHO WERE LIKE A BROTHER TO ME!
NARUMI
...
YOU'RE NOT HERE ANYMORE!
CUE DU SOLEIL

IF SHIROGANE IS SO BEAUTIFUL ...
... AND SOFTER THAN BEFORE
IF I CAN SMILE LIKE THAT ...

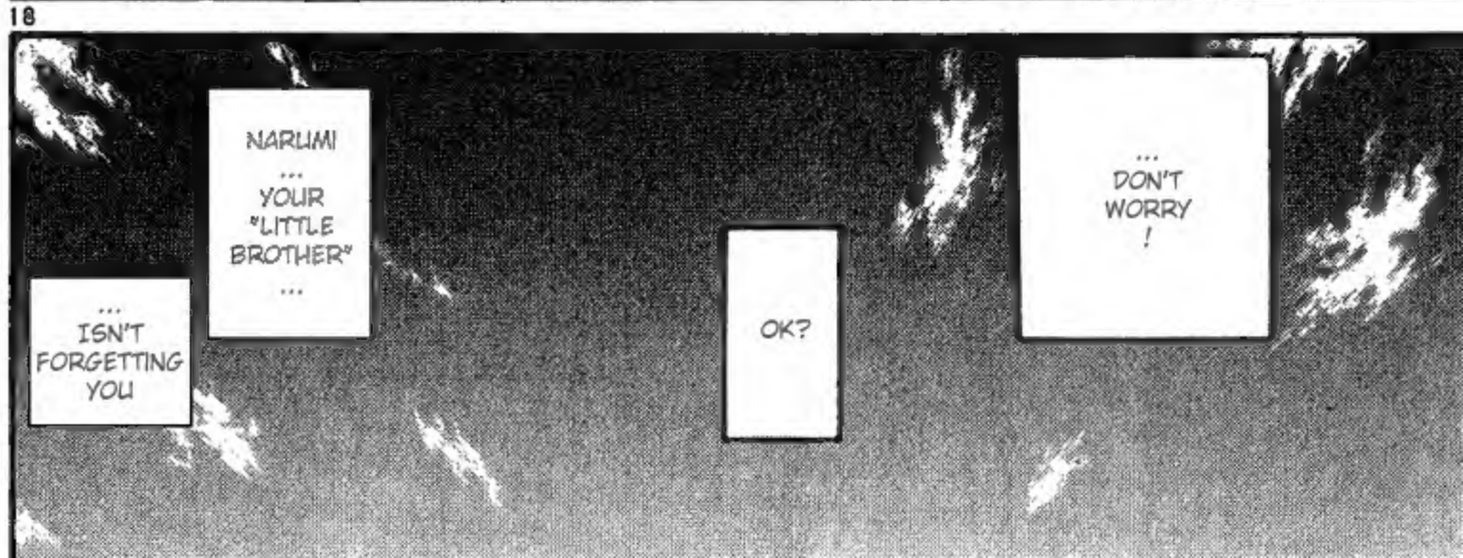
LIFT UP THE CORNERS OF YOUR MOUTH AND SMILE!
SMILE, SHIRO-GANE ...
... ABOUT SO MANY THINGS ...
... YOU TAUGHT US SO MUCH ...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU NARUMI ...

I'LL FOLLOW YOU, LITTLE MASTER
NARUMI... I FEEL IN VERY GOOD SHAPE. I WON'T STOP TO LAUGH BEFORE LONG...
TODAY, WE'LL GO ON FOOT ... RIGHT, SHIROGANE ?

MISTER MASARU, MISS SHIROGANE, WE HAVE TO LEAVE ... OR ELSE, WE'LL RISK BEING LATE


... NARUMI ...
SO, PLEASE ...
WHAT ?! BUT ...

I WANT SO MUCH TO GO TO SCHOOL ON FOOT TOGETHER !!


... ISN'T FORGETTING YOU
NARUMI ... YOUR "LITTLE BROTHER" ...
OK?
... DON'T WORRY !